

THE PORTRAIT OF GOD: 2004 National Conference

An Unquenchable Fire: The Wrath of God

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How would you describe wrath? Is wrath incompatible with the Christian concept of God? Before we dismiss difficult doctrines as distortions of God's character, let us first see what the Bible actually says about them. Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III delivers this message, which looks at a proper teaching on the biblical concept of God's wrath.

How is the wrath of God often parroted by modern culture? Fire and _____ preaching. What's odd about this?

I. The Wrath of God Defined

- a. Definitions. Anger, hot displeasure, _____.
- b. How did JI Packer think the subject of God wrath was treated?
- c. Instead of the wrath of God, what do most churches talk about?
- d. What has been the result of the overzealous avoidance of the subject of wrath?

II. The Wrath of God Defended

- a. Main Objections to Wrath of God
 - i. Incompatible with the Nature of God. First proposed by whom? Comment on Niebuhr, "God without wrath, brought men without sin into a kingdom without justice through a Christ without a cross."
 - ii. This question is a good test about how we respond to hard doctrines. "My God is too loving to.... to be like He is in Bible." We can never play one attribute against another. "It would be cruel if God would actually be wrathful." Instead, wrath is an expression of the function of God's justice. Abortion? Indignant at what?
 - iii. God's Wrath is an Old Testament Doctrine. NO it isn't. It is everywhere present. Gospels, Acts, Epistles, Revelation. Canon OT
20 words for wrath in OT, mentioned 580 times.
 - iv. Suggested Subject shouldn't be mentioned. Would offend seekers and new Christians

III. To Establish the Doctrine of the Wrath of God (especially in New Test.)

- a. Matthew 3:12 Who would burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire?
- b. Matthew 7 Jesus says He will execute Judgment.
- c. Romans 1:17-21
- d. Romans 3:5
- Romans 12:20

IV. Explaining the Wrath of God

- a. Wrath is the natural expression of God holiness and righteousness in response to wickedness and evil. If He wasn't this, he wouldn't be the God of the Bible, of moral perfection.
- b. Occasions: sin and justice intersect in wrath. Also His Goodness: righteous rejoice in hope!
- c. Qualities: It is the display of justice. Don't complain about wrath... it's fair. Mercy is not fair. God's wrath is Christological. Jesus taught more about it than Him. If Wrath? Then w/ Jesus.

V. The Application of the Wrath of God

- a.
- b.